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NSC BRIEFING

30 MARCH 1955

SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST WEST GERMAN REARMAMENT

- I. Now that France and Germany have at last ratified the Paris Accords, the Soviet campaign to block West German rearmament has entered a new phase.
  - A. While still insisting that ratification of Accords has made talks on Germany impossible, Moscow has inserted a new element in its campaign<sup>an</sup> an apparent willingness to talk on Austria.
- II. Kremlin may see an Austrian treaty as a means of preventing German rearmament.
  - A. Moscow is advertising the possibility of an Austrian "settlement"--on the condition that Austria observe strict neutrality--in an effort to whet West German appetites for a similar "settlement" there.
    1. The Communists are already pushing the story that what Moscow really wants is a protective belt of neutral states on its western frontier, from Sweden through Germany and Austria to Yugoslavia.
  - B. Too early, now, to say just when the possible gain in Germany will make the Kremlin pay the price of an actual agreement on an Austrian Treaty.
- III. Even while "settlement" still only in talk phase, USSR hopes to exploit Austrians' keen desire for treaty by forcing them

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to forego links with the West through NATO or through close ties with Bonn.

- A. Immediate Kremlin aim is to get very firm commitment to neutrality from Austrian leaders in April visit to Moscow.
- B. Moscow also wants right to sent troops back into Austria if it sees "direct threat of an Anschluss".

IV. Meanwhile, in order to convince Western Europeans of the futility of rearming West Germany, the Soviet Union is publicizing increase in Orbit security measures (first announced at Moscow conference last December).

- A. Soviet bloc states have announced (21 March) agreement on a mutual aid treaty and a unified command.
  - 1. Say these will take effect when Paris accords completely ratified.
  - 2. Would include Soviet Union and all East European Satellites.
- B. Important to emphasize that such arrangement would provide ready-made excuse for maintenance Soviet forces in Hungary and Rumania.
  - 1. Thus, one minor obstacle to Austrian Treaty (from Soviet point of view) would no longer exist.

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C. East Germans have jumped gun and announced that completion of ratification by Bonn has forced them to take "defense measures" now.

1. However, previous East German statements suggest formal creation of armed forces likely to await actual establishment West Germany army.

D. Satellites announcing increases in defense spending--  
Czechoslovakia (34%), Poland (12%).

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